

R E M A R K S

By this Amendment specification has been amended to further improve its presentation, claim 1 has been replaced by a newly drafted claim 29 (directed to the Figs. 4-5 embodiment), claims 5 and 8-14 have been revised, claim 7 has been canceled, claim 15 has been replaced by a new claim 30 (directed to the Figs. 7-10 embodiment), and claims 16, 20, 22-25 and 27 have been amended. It is believed that the claim amendments proposed suffice to address the overcome the examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1, 5, 7-11, 15, 16, 18-20 and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the "admitted prior art" (depicted in Figs. 1, 3 and 6 of this application), and she has rejected claims 6, 12-14 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the "admitted prior art."

These rejections cannot be applied to the amended claims.

Neither of the safety couplings of Figs. 3 or 6 disclose or suggest a second coupling part which defines an axial chamber, a radially outwardly-extending collar located radially outwardly of the axial groove and a radially outwardly-extending flange which is spaced from the collar to define a radially inwardly-extending recess (see new claim 29), or a first coupling part which defines an expandable hollow body that extends into the axial groove and contains a cavity that can be expanded with

pressurized fluid to cause the hollow body to frictionally engage the surfaces of the axial groove (see claim 29).

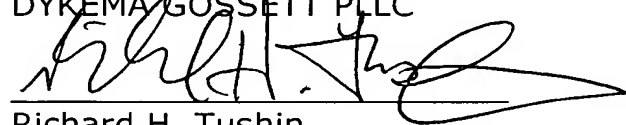
Also, neither of the safety couplings of Figs. 3 or 6 disclose or suggest a second coupling part which includes an axial groove that provides inner and outer legs (see claim 30), or a first coupling part which includes an expandable hollow body and locking means which engages the inner and outer legs to prevent divergence (see claim 30).

As such, the examiner's prior art rejection should be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

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